

March 2, 1976

SENATOR F. LEWIS: That is not the position?

SENATOR MARSH: No.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Alright, then secondly, has the University been at a higher level than the state employees the last year or so? In terms of health insurance benefits?

SENATOR MARSH: At cost or in terms of benefits, no. Not in terms of benefits.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: In terms of dollars paid out by the state?

SENATOR MARSH: No.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: I thought that they paid out \$22 last year.

SENATOR MARSH: You are asking what they paid out, I thought that you were asking what we designated. We gave them the same as all the other state employees.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: I thought that they university paid \$22 for the health care.

SENATOR MARSH: That is what they paid, sir, we did not give them \$22 for their health care, so they have had to eat it out of other budgets.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: That is enough of that. Let me make some comments, members of the Legislature. First of all I think that we have a bill that we have an agreement too. It covers all state employees. I certainly have a concern for the university employees that Senator Marsh does. The university is going to get the necessary money to do that. The Board of Regents may do what they want to. While all state employees last year had \$12, the university was paying \$22. They can pay whatever coverage that they want to. The university comes here after time after time asking that they have the authority to do what they want to. Now, if we are seeing uniformity, lets look at the total benefit package. The university employees have a 6% match TIA craft program. Which far exceeds, which far exceeds the state employees. The state colleges far exceed it. I'm interested in this bill going through. The Governor has agreed to this bill. I think that if we want additional health insurance coverage for the state college employee Senator Stull and for the university people, let the Board of Trustees, let the Board of Regents do that. I have no objections for doing it. I think that we have got the bill in good shape here and that we are in a solid position for the state employees, and I think that this is a very necessary bill. I don't want to see us tamper with it in terms of what the university must do or must not do. Again, I think that the trend has been to place more and more emphasis with the Board of Regents and I would oppose the Marsh amendment and lets take 971 across and I'm sure that it will be signed and it is going to increase those benefits to those state employees where my concern is.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Will Senator Marsh yield to some questions please. Senator Marsh, how many additional employees would be bringing in under this plan?